

THREE SAILORS
BY IRVIN SAFCHIK

WASHINGTON- MAY 4--(INS)--SENATE INVESTIGATORS CALLED OFFICIALS OF FOUR GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TODAY TO "FIND OUT THE WHOLE STORY" OF THE APRIL 7 SOVIET "KIDNAPING" OF FIVE RUSSIAN REFUGEE SAILORS. THE SENATE INTERNAL SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE SCHEDULED TESTIMONY BEHIND CLOSED DOORS FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT- THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY- THE IMMIGRATION SERVICE AND THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE.

THE SUBCOMMITTEE HOPES TO LEARN WHY SOVIET AGENTS WERE ABLE TO USHER THE SAILORS OUT OF THE U.S. WITH SUCH EASE.

IT WAS UNDER THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S ESCAPE PROGRAM THAT THE FIVE SAILORS AND FOUR OF THEIR SHIPMATES WERE FINALLY ALLOWED INTO THE U.S. LAST OCTOBER--NEARLY A YEAR AFTER THEY REQUESTED AMERICAN POLITICAL ASYLUM. THEIR SHIP HAD BEEN SEIZED BY THE CHINESE NATIONALISTS.

THE CIA IS SAID TO HAVE QUESTIONED THE SAILORS A NUMBER OF TIMES WHILE THEY WERE IN THE U.S. THE SUBCOMMITTEE HAS RECEIVED MANY PAGES OF TESTIMONY DESCRIBING THE SEAMEN AS COMPLETELY SATISFIED WITH THEIR LIFE HERE AND DETERMINED AGAINST RETURNING TO RUSSIA.

THE IMMIGRATION SERVICE WAS IN CHARGE OF THE BRIEF HEARING AT IDLEWILD AIRPORT, NEW YORK, WHEN THE FIVE SAILORS- SURROUNDED BY NEARLY A SCORE OF SOVIET AGENTS- SAID THEY WANTED TO GO BACK HOME AND THAT THEIR REDEFECTION WAS COMPLETELY VOLUNTARY.

UNDER THE LAW, THE ONLY REQUIREMENT FOR AN ALIEN WHO WANTS TO LEAVE THE U.S. IS A STATEMENT TO THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE THAT HE HAS PAID WHATEVER TAXES ARE DUE.

WHEN THE FIVE SEAMEN GOT TO MOSCOW THEY ISSUED A STATEMENT CLAIMING U.S. OFFICIALS HAD PREVENTED THEM FROM GETTING IN TOUCH WITH THE SOVIET EMBASSY WHILE THEY WERE IN THIS COUNTRY.

THE SUBCOMMITTEE, HOWEVER, PRODUCED LETTERS YESTERDAY WHICH IT SAID- THE SAILORS HAD WRITTEN RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR GEORGI ZARUBIN IN MARCH AND WHICH WERE HANDED OVER TO AN EMBASSY OFFICIAL.

THE LETTERS MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE FIVE HAD NO INTENTION EITHER OF LEAVING THE U.S. OR OF DISCUSSING THE MATTER PERSONALLY.

LEAVING THE U.S. OR OF DISCUSSING THE MATTER PERSONALLY WITH ZARUBIN- AS HE HAD SUGGESTED. THERE HAVE BEEN CHARGES THAT THE SOVIETS ACTUALLY "KIDNAPED" THE SEAMEN INTO GOING BACK TO RUSSIA.

RICHARD SALZMAN, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE, TOLD THE SUBCOMMITTEE YESTERDAY THAT THE SOVIETS AND THEIR SATELLITES ARE WAGING A WORLD-WIDE "COME-HOME" CAMPAIGN.

ANOTHER WITNESS, CATHOLIC MSGR. BELA VARGAS, A FORMER MEMBER OF THE HUNGARIAN PARLIAMENT, CHARGED THAT THE "COME-HOME" CAMPAIGN AGAINST REFUGEES FROM RED HUNGARY IS BEING WAGED IN THE U.S. BY A "SECRET COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION."

HE SAID IT IS "REPORTING IN DETAIL ON ALL HUNGARIAN REFUGEES WHO MAY BE OF ANY POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OR WHO COULD BE USED FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES IF RETURNED HOME."

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